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MONTANA

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

Jan 1980

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

January 1980

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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Employment and Training Administration

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

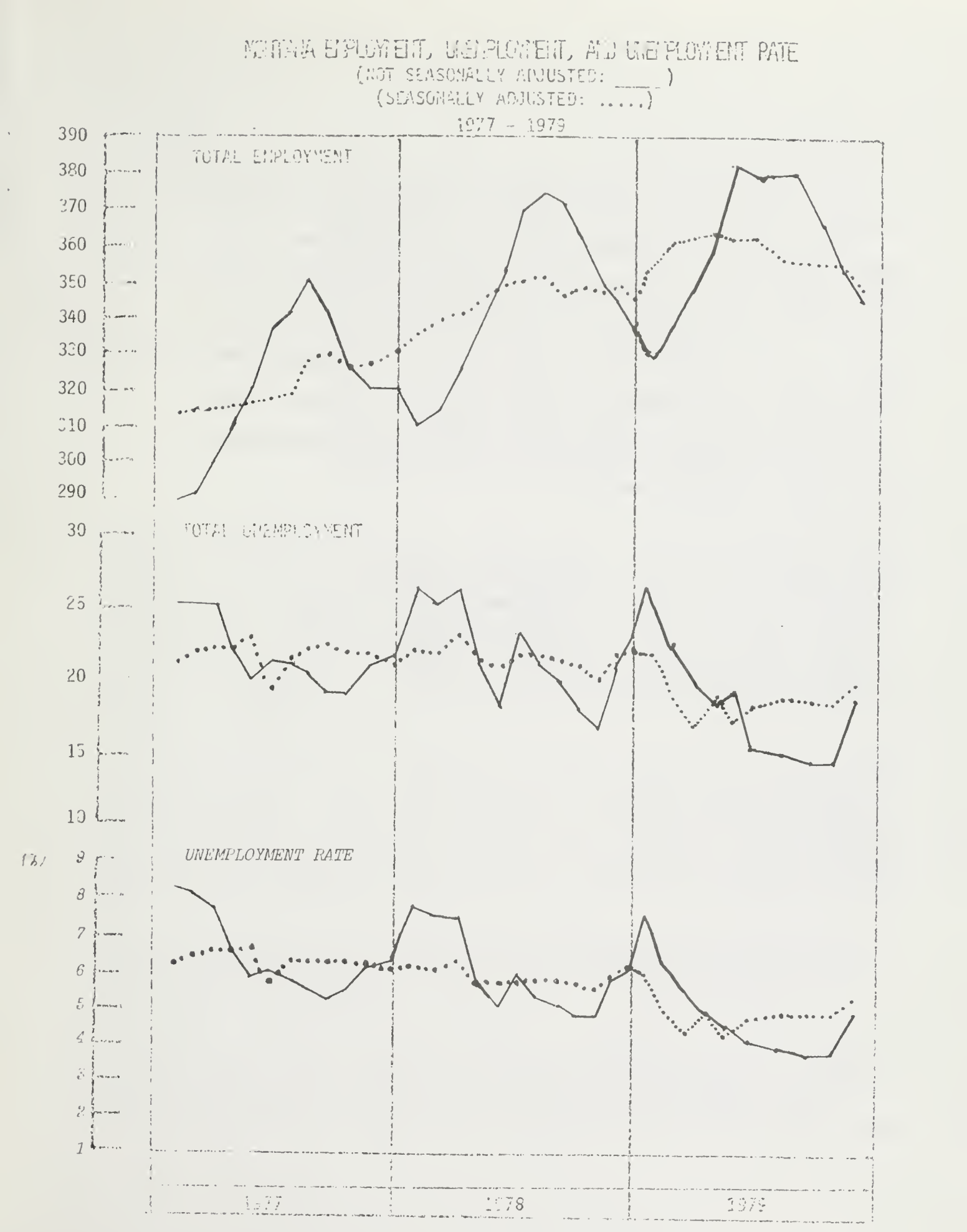
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.


MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)
1977 - 1979
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
390
380
370
360
350
340
330
320
310
300
290
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT
30
25
20
15
10
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(%)
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
1977
1978
1979

All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

Montana's civilian labor force and employment figures continued the seasonal decline. The civilian labor force dropped by 1,000 from November to December, resting at 260,800. This is 7,900 less than the civilian labor force for October, 1979. Last December's count was slightly higher, at 361,200. Montana's employment figure for December reflects pretty much the same movement, as it fell to 338,600 from 343,400 in November, 1979. This total is 15,100 less than the employment total for October, and only 500 less than December, 1978's count.

There were 22,200 persons without work in December. November's unemployment total was 18,400 and in October there were 7,200 fewer persons without work than in December. The unemployment rate rose from 4.1% in October to 5.1% in November and on up to 6.2% for December, 1979. This compares to an unemployment rate of 6.4% for December, 1978.

Montana's economy for this reporting period is highlighted by layoffs and labor disputes. Some lumber mill workers are returning to work, but the majority of the mill workers are still laid off and some are receiving indefinite layoff notices. A lumber company at Polson has become the latest in a number of sawmills in the Pacific Northwest forced into temporary shutdown. There are a few mills where some workers are returning to work. A mill in Trout Creek reported one-third of its work force back to work. There was no estimate as to when the mill would return to full production. A second planer shift returned to work on January 7th at a mill in Columbia Falls. The sales manager said it was uncertain how long the two planer shifts will continue.

A mining company in Montana is laying off 360 workers, which is 10 percent of the company's Montana work force. The president of the company said it is a move to bolster the company's future economic viability, even though copper prices are currently acceptable. The cuts will include 200 employees at an open-pit mine in Butte, 100 employees at an Anaconda smelter, 45 at a Great Falls refinery and 15 employees with the company's small railroad. The company's president said they would not reduce production in Montana. He also said the cutback would save the company as much as $7 million or $8 million a year.

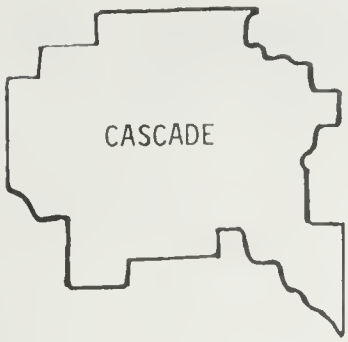
A labor dispute between the state colleges and members of the laborers, pipefitters and electricians unions has left at least 242 workers off the job. The labor dispute started January 14, 1980. A number of university employees are also honoring the picket lines.

Construction on Colstrip 3 and 4 has started with concrete work. An agreement between a large oil company and the Crow Indian Tribe has given the oil company the right to mine coal on 7,500 acres of tribal land in return for at least $12 million. The tribe is to receive $12 million before mining begins, which is scheduled for 1986, and 12 percent of the gross profits on the coal that is mined.

The number of farms and ranches in Montana during 1979 is estimated at 21,700, which indicates 300 operations have gone out of existence during the past year. For 1980, farm and ranch numbers are expected to decline about another 200 to an estimated 21,500. A farm is a place which has annual sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more. The only agricultural activity around the state involves the feeding of cattle where snow continues to cover the ground.

With the annual inflation rate of 12.8%, we have seen Real Spendable Earnings drop to $86.75, which is the lowest level for 1979. In the fourth quarter of 1979 on a national level, consumers saved 3.3% of disposable income, which is the lowest rate in 29 years.

GREAT FALLS SMSA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force was 32,400 persons in December. This compares unfavorably to last month's 33,000 and one year ago's count of 35,600. The employment total for December stood at 30,200, which is 700 less than last month and 600 fewer than one year ago.

Those considered unemployed in December amounted to 2,200. This is 100 more than November and a favorable 600 less than December, 1978. The unemployment increased to 6.7% in December from 6.4% in November. In comparison, last year's December unemployment rate was 7.9%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

State approval and a state grant of $100,000 has paved the way for building an alcohol fuel plant. Stockholders will raise an equal amount and a federal loan is expected to be used to complete the capital requirement. The current schedule of events has the plant design completion in April, construction startup in August, and production in January, 1981. A good demand has been indicated for the product.

A study of how a Great Falls bus system should operate is now under way and is scheduled for May completion. However, federal approval of operation plans and lengthy delivery of special ordered buses could keep Great Falls citizens from utilizing a bus system for 3½ years.

A nationally affiliated department store plans to build a second store to be located on Tenth Avenue. The $3 million, 73,000 square foot facility is scheduled for a November completion. Eventually the shopping area will expand to 160,000 square feet.

The value of building permits in 1979 totaled $15.2 million, which is down $5 million from 1978, and about half of the record $30.4 million in 1977. New residential units and values continued a decline from the 197 level of $15.2 million (716 units) to $8.4 million (342 units) in 1978 and $5.3 million (198 units) this past year.

Although the value of construction for the year 1979 was down, the last month of the year showed an upswing. The building permits obtained in December were valued at $1,520,640, which is nearly $1 million more than one year ago. An eighteen unit condominium and an office addition comprised 91 percent of the total value for building permits. A nation-wide oil refinery labor dispute, that started January 8, 1980, has involved 40 union personnel at a Great Falls refinery.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (cont.)

In December, the local Job Service office has been most active in placements for the service and retail industries. Construction layoffs have increased from poor winter working conditions.

Forty-five jobs are being eliminated from a copper refinery cutback. Copper production will not be affected by the reduction in personnel. Also, the College of Great Falls will make a staff reduction.

BILLINGS SMSA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the Billings SMSA declined by 300 persons from November to December. December's civilian labor force count of 54,200 is only 200 less than the total for December, 1978. Employment totals reflected basically the same movement as it declined from 52,400 in November to 51,800 in December. The employment total for December, 1978 was 51,700.

Unemployment numbers continue to climb in the Billings SMSA. there were 2,400 persons without work in December, 1979. This is 300 more than the November figure and 900 more than October, 1979. December, 1978 recorded 2,700 people looking for work. The unemployment rate in October was a very favorable 2.8%. November's unemployment rate went from 3.9% TO 4.4% in December, 1979. This is half a percentage point lower than the unemployment rate last year at this time.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

With the holiday season over, economic activity has slowed down in the Billings SMSA. Sixty percent of all claims filed in the local offices are from the construction industry. Home construction and oilfield construction have heavy layoffs through the winter months. Interior work will begin shortly on the 22 floor hotel/convention center in Billings. All that is left on the exterior is to close in the penthouse on top. A furniture store in Billings is breaking ground for a new building on the Heights. A hardware store is moving from the Heights to Colstrip. This move leaves fifteen persons without work. A modular home building company closed its doors in Laurel. The reason is said to be the shortage of orders for the homes. Two eating establishments have also closed their doors in Billings, laying off over 20 workers. Slow business was given as the reason.

Agruciltural activity is picking up as feeding begins with the snow storms coming in. A labor dispute at a Laurel refinery left many without work. There were 171 claims taken at the local office in connection with this dispute. Three refineries in Billings also halted work to honor a nationwide strike as of 4:00 p.m. on January 8th. This brings the total number of workers that walked out in Yellowstone County to 485. This is the first nationwide strike at refineries in 10 years. The last walkout lasted 84 days and another labor pute has idled 40 workers at Eastern Montana College.

The employment outlook shows some openings in the clerical field for replacement help. Some openings may be coming up in Hardin, as a large chain grocery store will be opening there.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

A situation of rising unemployment and decreasing employment pushed the LMA's unemployment rate up to 6.1% in December from 4.9% in November. The civilian labor force for December rose by 100 from November to 34,700. Unemployment rose 400 to 2,100 and the number of employed persons dropped by 300 to 32,600.

Last year in December there were 400 more people unemployed in the LMA and the total of 2,500 comprised 6.9% of the labor force. At that time, there were 36,000 in the labor force and 33,500 employed persons.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Highlighting economic activity this period is the announcement by a large mining concern of a layoff of 360 workers. The action will affect 10% of the firm's Montana workforce of 3,600 and over 300 of the layoffs will be in the Anaconda-Butte LMA. In Butte, over 200 workers of 1,700 will be cut and in Anaconda, 100 workers of 1,100 will lose jobs. The other layoffs will be in Great Falls, In just Anaconda and Butte the lost payroll will amount to over $6 million per year. The immediate impact of the reduction in force, which will affect both salaried and union employees, will be softened by favorable early retirement, special severance pay, and attempts to place individuals in other company operations. The layoff will reduce the companys work force in Butte to 1,500, which is about half of what it was in January 1975.

Three large projects which will begin sometime in 1980 were announced this period. A grant for $1.2 million was awarded by Housing and Urban Development to renovate an uptown Butte hotel into apartments for the elderly. Another HUD grant for $1.3 million will be used to renovate 40 housing units for low and moderate income families. And in Twin Bridges, an $11 million loan was made for a project to convert a former state facility to a 250 unit retirement home.

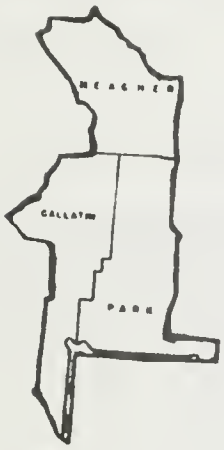
Several remodeling and building projects were completed this period in Butte. A new franchise food outlet began operations and is employing 70 persons. Also, a new uptown grocery store costing $250,000 opened, a $350,000 remodeling project for a warehouse was completed, and a $2.5 million physical education complex was dedicated. An announcement was made by a local savings and loan institution that it will soon begin construction on a new building.

An uptown Butte department store employing 96 people will discontinue operations in the city sometime in January. Seasonal layoffs continued this period in construction trades and there were also some layoffs of restaurant workers. Workers laid off from a Dillon lumber mill were recalled this period after seven weeks of inactivity. Resumption of the mill's night operation affected about 30 workers.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA (cont.)

Retail and wholesale activity this period ranged from stable in Butte to slow in Dillon. Agriculture activity was slow this period due to light snow cover in the area. In the Philipsburg area a silver flux mine will nearly triple production from 6,000 tons of ore per month to 17,000 tons per month. And in Butte, a decision by a state university to close a clinical nursing program in the city was reversed by the State Board of Regents.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, the civilian labor force increased by 800 from November to 26,700. December, 1978 had a civilian labor force of 26,400. Those considered employed in December registered at 25,100, which is 400 more than last month and 200 up on the count one year ago.

The unemployment count gained 400 from November to December, increasing to 1,600. The unemployment rate changed from 4.5% in November to 5.9% in December. One year ago the unemployment count was 1,500 and the unemployment rate was 5.6%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A 170 acre site near Belgrade is being considered for an agricultural business center. Included in the plans of the local developer is the following: a livestock auction market, retail and service businesses, professional people, offices of various livestock associations, a motel, dining facilities and a movie theatre. Development of the complex depends on available financing, local planning board approval and several state agencies approval.

The value of building permits issued in Bozeman declined by about one-third from 1978's $19.8 million to 1979's $13.2 million. Much of the dollar difference in the two years comes from single unit housing declines and shopping center development-a 330,000 square foot mall permit in 1978 compared to a 125,000 square foot shopping center in 1979. Bozeman's single family residence permits for the last three years are as follows; 1977-136, 1978-116, and 1979-58. The number of family units from multiple family buildings and apartment buildings requesting building permits increased from 113 units in 1978 to 143 in 1979.

A recently completed $2.75 million insurance building was commemorated by several high-ranking officials for the solar-heating system design. Involved in the solar heating systems was $267,000 in state and federal funds.

A labor dispute involving 90 electricians, plumbers and laborers occurred January 14th at the Montana State University. Combined with support from other union members, twenty percent of MSU's classified work force is not working. Wages are the main issue of dispute.

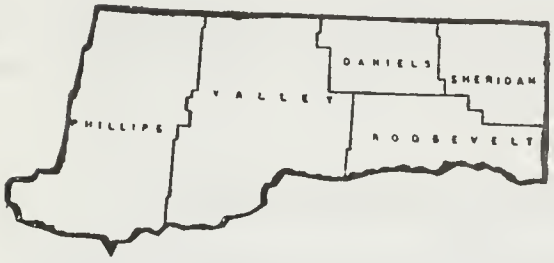
BOZEMAN LMA (cont.)

In Livingston, a $229,400 federal restoration grant to upgrade the Sacajawea Park Lagoon and Fleshman Creek will be applied for. A total proposed budget of $458,800 will be used in phases that should take two or three years for completion.

The winter sports-skiing and snowmobiling-have had poor snow conditions up to early January. Thus, the service and retail trade industries that cater these winter sports enthusiasts can finally expect normal business activity. One of the ski resorts was finally able to hire 200 full and part-time employees.

Local Job Service offices reported that numerous layoffs in the construction and retail industries occurred in the mid-December thru mid-January period.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of unemployed persons in the LMA remained unchanged from November at 600. The unemployment rate did rise slightly, however, from 4.0% in November to 4.1% in December. This was due to a drop of 300 in the labor force to 15,700 and a drop in employment of 300 to 15,100.

Last year at this time 4.3% of the labor force was unemployed. Out of a labor force of 15,400 there were 700 unemployed and 14,700 employed persons.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Arrangements made to utilize facilities at an industrial park near Glasgow highlight economic activity this period. An aircraft manufacturer will occupy a hanger in the park for a three week period to test a helicopter. A crew of 16 will be involved in the testing. Plans are now underway for other aircraft companies to use the former air force base as a test facility.

Up to 150,000 square feet of area in the industrial park will be used as a staging area for storage of pipe and pre-construction activity for an oil pipeline. The storing of pipe could begin this year and construction activities in 1981. 200 to 250 men will be working on an 80 to 100 mile segment of the line and industrial park facilities will be used for approximately 18 months.

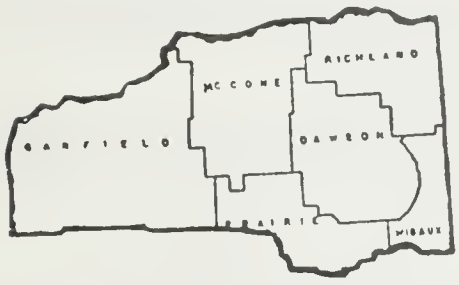
A Glasgow training center with a staff of 85 is still considering relocating to another city. The purpose of the move would be to improve the effectiveness of its programs. Besides Great Falls, possibilities exist the center may move to Deer Lodge or sites in South Dakota. Interest groups in Great Falls have opposed moving the center there.

GLASGOW LMA (cont.)

Oil exploration work in the area came to a halt for a few weeks at the end of December, but work did resume in early January. Oil drilling continued through the period, however, there probably won't be much expansion in these occupations until spring. In mining activity, a Glasgow facility will close and 25 will be laid off. Construction work slowed this period due to cold weather. The level of activity is about the same as last year at this time, though.

The retail trade sector reports activity is down, but there have been few lay-offs as a result. And in farm and ranch occupations, there was little activity due to a light snow cover.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the LMA in December dropped to 14,100 from 14,300 in November. The number of employed persons took a bigger drop, though, from 13,900 to 13,500. In November, there were 400 persons unemployed and in December, the number rose to 600; the respective unemployment rates are 2.5% and 3.9%.

Compared to last year in December, there are now more people employed and also unemployed. Out of a labor force of 13,400 in December of last year, 12,900 held jobs and 500 were unemployed. One hundred more people are classified as unemployed this year, but 600 more people are employed.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Due to mild weather, consturction again highlights economic activity in the LMA. Oil field construction and exploration both remained steady through the period, though, no new hiring took place. Highway construction activity involved hauling gravel east of Glendive. Home contractors continued working on both outside work and interior finishing. Cold weather did cause activity to slow near the end of the period, however. In Glendive for 1979, building permits were down by 5 in number from 71 and down $680,161 in value from $1,710,403 in 1978.

Sugar beet processing continued through the period with the slicing of beets finishing at the end of the period. The transportation of beets to the factory also drew to a close this period. Only a few weeks of work remain with sugar beets and approximately 100 seasonal workers will be laid off upon completion of processing.

Retail trade remained steady this period in the LMA with no significant hiring occurring. Service industries were good to excellent this period and those related to oilfield activity did particularly well. Agriculture was stable through this period with livestock feeding the main activity.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of persons comprising the civilian labor force in December was 12,200. This count is the same as one year ago and 100 less than last month. Employment declined by 200 from November to December, leaving a total of 11,500.

Unemployed persons in December registered at 700. This is 100 more than last month and 100 less than one year ago. The unemployment rate increased from 4.7% in November to 5.4% in December. One year prior the unemployment rate was 6.2%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

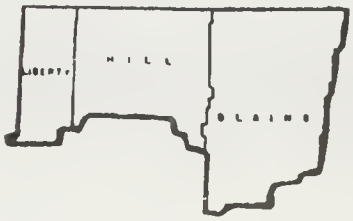
In 1979, visitors at the Custer Battlefield National Monument declined by 25% and at the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation area, visitors increased by 6%. What this illustrated is the reduction of out-of-state tourism and the increased utilization of nearby recreation facilities by local people.

The Crow Indian Tribe and a major oil company are discussing terms for leasing tribal land to mine coal. An inactive sugar factory near Hardin could become the site of a new industry - a gasohol plant. A feasibility study is currently being done by private investors.

A national airline has added new routes to their system that stretches from Washington, D. C. to Spokane. The new routes may hold potential for turning Red Lodge into a destination ski area. Air line personnel and travel agents are being given tours of the Red Lodge area to establish knowledge of the area. One of the suggestions by the visitors to improve the winter sports tourism was the development of condominiums.

In Red Lodge, downtown sidewalk and curb replacements were approved by the city council. A proposed city water reservoir was denied funding by the Department of Housing and Urban Development regional office. Since the $375,000 community grant has been disproved two years in a row, other federal funding sources are being solicited. Also, the city council is allowing a coal company to continue loading coal into railroad cars on the northeast part of Red Lodge.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the LMA for December rose by 100 since November to 12,300. Unemployment rose by 200 to 800 and the number of employed persons dropped by 100 to 11,500. Last year in December there were 11,900 in the labor force with 11,200 employed and 700 unemployed persons.

HAVRE LMA (cont.)

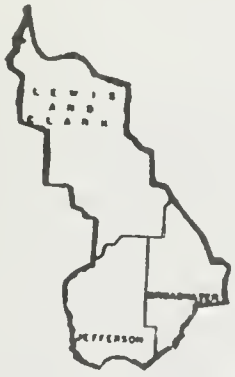
December's unemployment rate of 6.7% is up from 5.3% in November. Last year at this time 6.0% of the labor force was unemployed.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The lull in construction activity throughout the LMA highlights economic activity this period. Outside work was curtailed sharply this period and layoffs were made each week. No large projects are underway except for some inside work being done on a Havre shopping center. As weather improves, work may begin on a factory to supply chisel plows to a Havre tractor builder.

There were some layoffs this period in retail and wholesale trade as activity slows after the holiday season. Agriculture activity was slow this period, however, the hiring pace should pick up soon as ranchers prepare for calving.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force of the LMA remained unchanged from November at 27,200. Employment dropped by 300 to 25,600 and unemployment rose by 300 to 1,600. This pushed the unemployment rate up to 5.9% in December from 4.8% in November.

Statistics for the current month differ only slightly from last year at this time. The number of employed was higher by 100 and there were 100 more in the labor force. Unemployment was the same at 1,600, as was the unemployment rate of 5.9%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Helena City Commission approval of a project to expand an existing shopping mall highlights economic activity this period. The proposed project, which will expand the facility by 110,000 square feet, is the first major shopping center development given approval in the city for two years. No date has been set for when construction will begin. Another major development, a commercial and residential project to be located between Helena and Montana City, remains under consideration by Jefferson County officials. Also, plans by the developer to locate a regional shopping center near Montana City have been dropped in favor of building closer to Helena.

Both residential and commercial building permits in the city of Helena for 1979 fell from 1978 levels. Residential permits declined 17% in number and over $200,000 in value, commercial permits dropped only 8% in number but over $1 million in value. A nationwide trend of higher interest rates and tighter money was reflected in the Helena economy and industry analysts consider these the prime reasons for the drop in activity in Helena, However, for 1980, prospects look considerably better: two major projects, expansion of a major shopping center and a local hospital will nearly double 1979 commercial permit valuations.

Activity for the current period was sluggish, though, with very little hiring occurring. Spurts of warm weather allowed work to continue on some projects, but layoffs continued in construction trades and logging occupations.

Farm and ranch activity was stable this period with little hiring being done. Cattle are still grazing in hay fields due to a light snow cover and ranchers do not anticipate shortages of feed. This is in contrast to the southwestern area of the state where cattle are being sold or shipped to other areas due to a lack of feed caused by a dry summer. A Townsend area chicken farmer is still recovering from losses suffered when he was forced to destroy PCB contaminated chickens. The farmer won't return to full production until May and expects at least two years to pass before operations will be back to normal.

Retail sales in the area were down this period. Especially hard hit have been automobile sales-down as much as 25%-and winter related items such as skiis, snowmobiles, etc. Three retail establishments and a restaurant went out of business in Helena this period; this follows a trend set in early fall where several businesses have been closing each month.

Most occupations in the area continue to have more workers available than are demanded. There were exceptions this period, however, in clerical, administrative, computer programming, and food service occupations.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Kalispell's civilian labor force remained stable between November and December. December's total was 38,800 which is only 100 higher than November's total. The civilian labor force totaled 37,700 for December, 1978. The total number of persons with work dropped from 36,100 in November to 35,300 in December. One year ago in December, the total count for employed persons was 800 less at 34,500.

The number of people looking for work rose considerably from 2,600 in November to 3,500 in December, 1979. This figure is 300 higher than the unemployment total for December, 1978. The unemployment rate reflected the same movement, rising from 6.8% in November to 9.1% for December, 1979. The unemployment rate for December, 1978 was seven-tenths of a percentage point lower at 8.4%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction continues to slow in the Kalispell LMA with the only construction consisting of finish work. Layoffs are still occuring as jobs are being completed. Manufacturing is the bright spot in the area for the reporting period. One beehive manufacturing plant is adding workers to its payroll as they receive increased orders. Another beehive manufacturing plant will be opening and interviewing for positions. The plant is to be open in January. Some workers have returned to work at the paper mill, while some departments at the mill continue the shutdown. The second planer shift at a Columbia Falls plant returned to work. On January 11th a Polson lumber company was the latest in a number of sawmills in the Pacific Northwest to temporarily shut down because of poor lumber market prices. A Pablo mill plans to continue operating normal shifts on a 5-day a week basis. The mill has a good supply of orders on hand and at this time, there are no plans to curtail production. The only major employer anticipating a large layoff is an aluminum plant in Columbia Falls. They anticipate 100 layoffs in March, 1980.

Post Christmas retail layoffs are seen, mostly in the clerk positions. The restaurant and lodging industry are hopeful for a busy skiing season with the fair conditions. There are occasional openings in the cook, waitress, and and babysitting fields. Some office help is needed, also, mostly of the part-time nature. There have been snow removal jobs, but nothing big, which is unusual. Some good snowfall is still anticipated. The major activity in the agricultural field is supplemental cattle feeding.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force total for December was 10,000, which is 500 less than last month and 100 less than one year ago. The employment total changed from 10,000 in November to 9,600 in December. The previous December employment was 9,500.

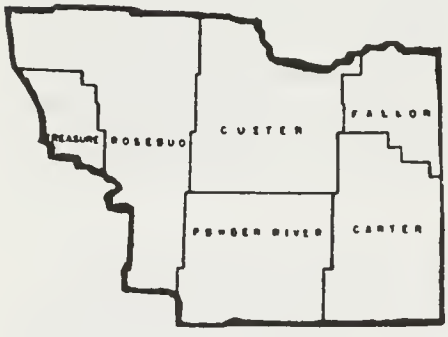
Those considered unemployed decreased to 400 in December from the previous month's 500. Also, the unemployment rate decreased to 4.0% in December from the November 4.4%. One year ago, 600 persons were considered unemployed and the unemployment rate was 5.7%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A Missouri River bridge, north of Winifred, has been approved by the Department of Highways. The estimated cost is between $2.0 and $2.5 million for the bridge that will take two years to complete. The 904 foot long bridge will replace the present ferry service.

Livestock feeding activity has created some temporary employment. Fortunately, severe winter conditions such as last winter's have not prevailed thus far in the LMA.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

December's civilian labor force declined by 300 from November, leaving a 14,300 total. This total is 100 less than one year ago. The employment total in December registered at 13,600, which is 500 less than last month and the same as one year ago.

Those considered unemployed increased by 200 in the November to December period, increasing the count to 700. The unemployment rate also increased from 3.6% in November to 4.7% in December. One year ago, the unemployment count was 800 and the unemployment rate was 5.6%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A flood dike to eliminate one of the state's worst flood plains was discussed in Miles City. Approximately $2 million of a special assessment bond issue will be voted upon by Miles City and Custer County citizens. Also, $6-8 million in federal funds will be available for the flood dike construction.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

Several Montana cities have received preliminary approval for HUD grants. Among those is a $343,000 housing rehabilitation grant for Miles City.

The value of Miles City's building permits for 1979 was $9.51 million, which is a favorable 5.5% increase over 1978's $6.13 million. Among the larger building permits for 1979 were as follows: new bank, church development, new grade school, recreation facilities expansion at the community college, and nationally affiliated supermarket. Residential permits declined from 58 in 1977 and in 1978 to 41 in 1979.

The Miles City Job Service office reports reduction in forces occurring in the construction industry that has averaged 37 per week from mid-December to mid-January this time period. Twenty-seven operating engineers involved in coal mining have been laid off temporarily due to shortages in coal production and condition of equipment. A positive construction development is the start of concrete work on power plants 3 and 4. The Job Service office notes a strong demand for computer terminal operators in the Colstrip area.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Missoula's civilian labor force remained the same from November to December at 51,800. In October, 1979 the civilian labor force totaled 50,200. Employment rose from 46,400 in October up to 48,400 in November. In December, the employment total dropped back down to 47,700. There were 46,400 employed persons in December, 1978.

There were similar changes in unemployment when the total number of people looking for work dropped from 3,800 in October to 3,400 in November and on up to 4,100 in December, 1979. There was a total of 3,800 unemployed persons last year at this same time. The unemployment rate for December was 7.0%, which was 1.4% higher than November of 1979 and four-tenths of a percentage point higher than in October. December, 1978 recorded a 7.5% unemployment rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Missoula LMA remained fairly stable for this reporting period. Cutbacks are seen in most retail businesses after the Christmas season. Two stores in uptown Missoula, a shoe store and a clothing store, are going out of business. Initial excavating has begun on a new shopping market in Hamilton. Besides this, there was no new construction reported. Most outdoor activity was halted when there was 15 inches of snowfall in the Missoula area.

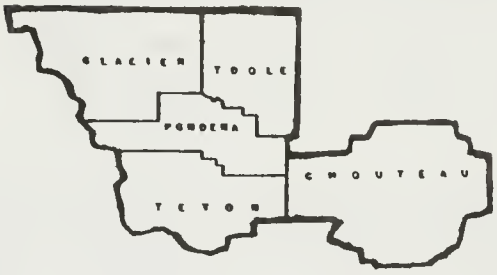
MISSOULA LMA (cont.)

A lumber mill in Trout Creek reported it would resume limited lumber production. Twenty-six employees will be called back to operate the green end of the mill. The general manager said the firm's lumber inventory was pretty low and gave no estimate as to when production would be expanded to include operation of the mill's dry kiln and planer. At the same time, 40 plywood workers who were on temporary layoff over the holidays, have been given indefinite layoff notices.

A labor dispute developed on January 14, 1980, between 16 University of Montana employees and the University. The employees involved have been working without a contract since June 30, 1979. Wages and seniority are major issues blamed for the walkout.

Agricultural activity has consisted mainly of supplemental livestock feeding There is concern that the area will experience a water shortage next summer, as snowpack and water content in the area are 43% below normal. Employment levels remained fairly stable in most industrial groups. There has been some activity as area restaurants are looking for replacement help and cooks.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Shelby-Cut Bank LMA remained fairly stable for this reporting period, when the civilian labor force remained the same from November to December at 16,200. This was a reduction of only 200 workers since October, 1979. December's employment count dropped by 200 from November to 15,200 in December, which is only 100 lower than the employment total in October. In December of 1978, there were 15,300 persons with work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Shelby-Cut Bank LMA continues in its seasonal lull. Economic activity remains fairly stable in most industries. The labor dispute at the refinery in Cut Bank highlights economic activity in that area. Forty-four to fifty employees walked off the job as of 4:00 p.m. on January 8, 1980. Management is keeping the boilers running so the plant does not freeze. According to national officials, the employees are looking for full health coverage and a substantial hourly wage increase.

Weather was very unusual for the first couple weeks of January. After this, the weather turned extremely cold, curtailing most outdoor activity. The new motel complex is going up at a pace relative to the weather. Besides this, other construction has nearly come to a halt.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA (cont.)

Drilling continues near East Glacier. Another hole was started and the drilling company predicts three more in the near future. Agriculture consists mostly of supplemental feeding of livestock with the snow storms coming in. Farmers and ranchers are beginning to worry about the lack of moisture. Precipitation has been well below normal since May. The employment outlook shows very little activity with some calls for general farm workers and general laborers.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
December 1979

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	319	82	2431
CETA-CEP	75	53	283
CETA-INST	125	19	269
CETA-OJT	33	34	106
JOB CORPS	19	21	406
PSE TITLE II	4	9	436
PSE TITLE VI	3	7	236
PSE TITLE VI-A	2	6	198
CETA-AWE	55	21	188
HIRE II	0	1	2
YETP/OJT	2	2	37
STIP II	0	0	1
YETP/INST	0	0	11
PSE-TRAINING	13	14	131

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. 1/

All Items

(1967 = 100) *Percent Change From:*

Series	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
CPI-U	229.9	*1.1*	*13.3*
CPI-W	230.0	*1.1*	*13.4*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

December 1979

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Insured Unemployment*
Non-White	*15.9 %*
Female	*23.4 %*
Youth	*6.8 %*
Over 45	*21.2 %*

1/ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.

Table I

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1978								
January	338.7	312.1	290.1	22.0	26.6	*7.8*	*7.0*	*
February	342.5	316.8	292.9	23.9	25.7	*7.5*	*6.9*	*
March	355.1	328.6	300.0	28.6	26.5	*7.5*	*6.6*	*
April	365.9	344.5	309.4	35.1	21.4	*5.9*	*5.8*	*
May	373.6	354.9	318.8	36.1	18.7	*5.0*	*5.5*	.1
June	395.1	371.4	330.2	41.2	23.7	*6.0*	*6.2*	.4
July	396.5	375.0	330.9	44.1	21.5	*5.4*	*6.3*	.2
August	393.6	373.4	326.2	47.2	20.2	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
September	382.0	363.9	327.1	36.8	18.1	*4.7*	*6.0*	.1
October	368.1	350.8	319.5	31.3	17.3	*4.7*	*5.4*	.1
November	367.6	346.4	319.5	26.9	21.2	*5.8*	*5.5*	.1
December	361.2	338.1	315.0	23.1	23.1	*6.4*	*5.6*	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	356.2	329.6	308.3	21.3	26.6	*7.5*	*6.4*	*
February	358.6	336.5	313.3	23.2	22.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	1.0
March	366.1	346.3	318.5	27.8	19.8	*5.4*	*6.1*	*
April	377.0	358.1	323.9	34.2	18.9	*5.0*	*5.5*	*
May	386.2	370.0	334.7	35.3	16.2	*4.2*	*5.2*	*
June	400.4	382.3	342.1	40.2	18.1	*4.5*	*6.0*	*
July	398.9	381.8	338.8	43.0	17.1	*4.3*	*5.8*	*
August	395.5	378.8	332.8	46.0	16.7	*4.2*	*5.9*	.1
September	381.1	366.4	330.5	35.9	14.9	*3.9*	*5.6*	.1
October	368.7	353.7	323.2	30.5	15.0	*4.1*	*5.6*	.1
November	361.8	343.4	317.2	26.2	18.4	*5.1*	*5.6*	*
December	360.8	338.6	316.0	22.2		*6.2*	*5.6*	*
Avg.	375.9	357.1	324.9	32.2	18.8	*5.0*		.2
1980								
January	*353.0*	*324.6*	*303.8*	*20.8*	*28.4*	*8.0*	*6.8*	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] County	Percent[1/] State	
1978								
January	51.1	48.0	47.0	1.0	3.1	*6.1*	*7.8*	*
February	51.4	48.5	47.4	1.1	2.9	*5.6*	*7.5*	*
March	52.9	49.7	48.4	1.3	3.2	*6.1*	*7.5*	*
April	53.8	51.5	49.9	1.6	2.3	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
May	53.8	51.7	50.0	1.7	2.1	*3.9*	*5.0*	*
June	55.7	53.0	51.1	1.9	2.7	*4.8*	*6.0*	*
July	55.3	53.0	51.0	2.0	2.3	*4.2*	*5.4*	*
August	55.0	52.7	50.5	2.2	2.3	*4.1*	*5.1*	*
September	55.5	53.4	51.7	1.7	2.1	*3.8*	*4.7*	*
October	54.6	52.8	51.4	1.4	1.8	*3.2*	*4.7*	*
November	55.2	52.6	51.4	1.2	2.6	*4.8*	*5.8*	*
December	54.4	51.7	50.6	1.1	2.7	*4.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	*4.6*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	53.5	50.5	49.5	1.0	3.0	*5.7*	*7.5*	*
February	52.9	50.5	49.4	1.1	2.4	*4.5*	*6.2*	*
March	53.3	51.2	49.9	1.3	2.1	*3.9*	*5.4*	*
April	53.8	51.9	50.3	1.6	1.9	*3.5*	*5.0*	*
May	55.2	53.6	52.0	1.6	1.6	*2.9*	*4.2*	*
June	55.3	53.5	51.7	1.8	1.8	*3.2*	*4.5*	*
July	54.8	53.1	51.1	2.0	1.7	*3.2*	*4.3*	*
August	55.3	53.5	51.4	2.1	1.8	*3.2*	*4.2*	*
September	55.3	53.8	52.2	1.6	1.5	*2.8*	*3.9*	*
October	54.0	52.5	51.1	1.4	1.5	*2.8*	*4.1*	*
November	54.5	52.4	51.2	1.2	2.1	*3.9*	*5.1*	
December	54.2	51.8	50.8	1.0	2.4	*4.4*	*6.2*	*
Avg.	54.3	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.0	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
1980								
January	*53.6*	*50.6*	*49.6*	*1.0*	*3.0*	*5.7*	*8.0*	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1978								
January	33.2	30.4	29.5	.9	2.8	*8.3*	*7.8*	*
February	33.7	31.0	30.1	.9	2.7	*8.0*	*7.5*	*
March	34.7	32.1	31.0	1.1	2.6	*7.4*	*7.5*	*
April	34.5	32.5	31.1	1.4	2.0	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
May	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	*5.4*	*5.0*	*
June	37.1	34.3	32.7	1.6	2.8	*7.4*	*6.0*	*
July	37.1	34.8	33.1	1.7	2.3	*6.3*	*5.4*	*
August	37.0	34.7	32.8	1.9	2.3	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
September	36.8	34.5	33.0	1.5	2.3	*6.2*	*4.7*	*
October	36.0	33.9	32.7	1.2	2.1	*5.9*	*4.7*	*
November	36.3	33.6	32.5	1.1	2.7	*7.4*	*5.8*	*
December	35.6	32.8	31.9	.9	2.8	*7.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	*6.8*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	34.9	31.9	31.1	.8	3.0	*8.6*	*7.5*	*
February	34.6	32.2	31.3	.9	2.4	*6.9*	*6.2*	*
March	34.9	32.8	31.9	1.1	2.1	*6.1*	*5.4*	*
April	35.4	33.4	32.0	1.4	2.0	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
May	36.1	34.3	32.9	1.4	1.8	*5.0*	*4.2*	*
June	36.8	34.7	33.1	1.6	2.1	*5.7*	*4.5*	*
July	36.1	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.8*	*4.3*	*
August	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.5*	*4.2*	*
September	35.0	33.2	31.8	1.4	1.8	*5.0*	*3.9*	*
October	33.7	32.0	30.8	1.2	1.7	*5.1*	*4.1*	*
November	33.0	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.1	*6.4*	*5.1*	
December	32.4	30.2	29.3	.9	2.2	*6.7*	*6.2*	*
Avg.	34.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	2.1	*6.0*	*5.0*	*
1980								
January	*33.7*	*31.1*	*30.3*	*.8*	*2.6*	*7.8*	*8.0*	
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry
December 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Dec. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	360.8	361.8	361.2	-1.0	-.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	338.6	343.4	338.1	-4.8	.5
Persons Employed in Agriculture	22.6	26.2	23.1	-3.6	-.5
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	22.2	18.4	23.1	3.8	-.9
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.2*	*6.1*	*6.4*	*1.1*	*-.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*5.9*	*5.3*	*6.1*	*.6*	*-.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*298.5*	*290.1*	*283.9*	*-.6*	*5.6*
MANUFACTURING	*26.6*	*27.1*	*26.8*	*-.5*	*-.2*
Durable Goods	*17.2*	*17.7*	*27.6*	*-.5*	*-.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*10.5*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*-.2*	*-.5*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.1*	*3.3*	*3.2*	*-.2*	*-.1*
Other Durable Goods	*3.7*	*3.7*	*3.5*	*0*	*.2*
Nondurable Goods	*9.4*	*9.4*	*9.2*	*.1*	*.2*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.4*	*4.5*	*4.4*	*-.1*	*0*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.3*	*2.4*	*2.3*	*-.1*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.1*	*1.0*	*0*	*.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*.1*	*.1*
MINING	*8.0*	*8.0*	*7.3*	*0*	*.7*
10 Metal Mining	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*0*	*0*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*2.4*	*2.5*	*2.0*	*-.1*	*.4*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.6*	*3.6*	*3.2*	*0*	*.4*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*14.7*	*15.9*	*14.9*	*-1.2*	*-.1*
15 General Building Contractors	*5.2*	*5.5*	*5.5*	*-.3*	*-.3*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*3.6*	*4.0*	*3.6*	*-.4*	*0*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*5.9*	*6.4*	*5.7*	*-.5*	*.2*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*23.7*	*23.6*	*22.6*	*.1*	*1.1*
40 Railroad Transportation	*7.6*	*7.6*	*7.0*	*0*	*.6*
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	*7.0*	*6.9*	*7.2*	*.1*	*-.2*
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*9.2*	*9.2*	*8.4*	*0*	*.8*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*76.6*	*76.1*	*75.8*	*.5*	*.8*
Wholesale Trade	*17.8*	*17.8*	*16.8*	*0*	*1.0*
Retail Trade	*58.8*	*58.3*	*59.0*	*.5*	*-.2*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*9.3*	*9.0*	*9.9*	*.3*	*-.6*
54 Food Stores	*7.9*	*8.1*	*8.1*	*-.2*	*-.2*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*9.0*	*9.0*	*9.2*	*0*	*-.2*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*20.8*	*20.9*	*20.1*	*-.1*	*.7*
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*11.7*	*11.3*	*11.7*	*.4*	*0*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*12.9*	*12.0*	*12.6*	*0*	*.3*
SERVICES	*55.0*	*54.5*	*53.1*	*.5*	*1.9*
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	*6.3*	*6.0*	*6.2*	*.3*	*.1*
72 Personal Services	*2.6*	*2.5*	*2.6*	*.1*	*0*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*17.7*	*17.6*	*17.4*	*.1*	*.3*
Other Services	*28.4*	*28.4*	*26.9*	*0*	*1.5*
GOVERNMENT	*72.1*	*72.1*	*70.8*	*0*	*1.3*
91 Federal Government	*12.0*	*12.1*	*12.8*	*-.1*	*-.8*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*18.6*	*18.6*	*19.2*	*0*	*-.6*
92 Other State Government	*10.4*	*10.4*	*10.7*	*0*	*-.3*
93 Local Education	*28.4*	*26.4*	*25.1*	*0*	*1.3*
93 Other Local Government	*15.0*	*14.9*	*13.7*	*.1*	*1.3*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	32.4	33.0	35.6	-.6	-3.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	30.2	30.9	32.8	-.7	-2.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	.9	1.0	.9	-.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.2	2.1	2.8	.1	-.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*6.7*	*6.4*	*7.9*	*.3*	*-1.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.8*	*6.7*	*8.0*	*.1*	*-1.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*30.2*	*30.5*	*30.1*	*-.3*	*.1*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*-.1*	*0*
Contract Construction	*1.6*	*1.9*	*1.6*	*-.3*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*10.1*	*10.0*	*10.1*	*.1*	*0*
Wholesale Trade	*2.9*	*2.9*	*2.8*	*0*	*.1*
Retail Trade	*7.2*	*7.1*	*7.3*	*.1*	*-.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.8*	*6.8*	*6.7*	*0*	*.1*
Government	*6.0*	*6.0*	*5.9*	*0*	*.1*
Federal Government	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*.1*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*4.1*	*4.2*	*4.1*	*-.1*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	54.2	54.5	54.4	-.3	-.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	51.8	52.4	51.7	-.6	.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.0	1.2	1.1	-.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	2.1	2.7	.3	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.4*	*3.9*	*4.9*	*.5*	*-.5*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.3*	*4.3*	*4.9*	*0*	*-.6*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*49.6*	*49.5*	*46.9*	*.1*	*2.7*
Manufacturing	*4.8*	*4.7*	*4.3*	*.1*	*.5*
Contract Construction	*2.6*	*2.8*	*2.4*	*-.2*	*.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*5.0*	*5.0*	*4.5*	*0*	*.5*
Trade	*16.5*	*16.5*	*16.2*	*0*	*.3*
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.6*	*5.2*	*0*	*.4*
Retail Trade	*10.9*	*10.9*	*11.0*	*0*	*-.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.4*	*2.4*	*2.3*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*10.2*	*10.2*	*9.6*	*0*	*.6*
Government	*8.1*	*8.0*	*7.6*	*.1*	*.5*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*6.5*	*6.4*	*6.1*	*.1*	*.5*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
P Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1979
STATEWIDE	368.7	361.8	360.8	353.7	343.4	338.6	15.0	18.4	22.2	*4.1*	*5.1*	*6.2*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.7	33.0	32.4	32.0	30.9	30.2	1.7	2.1	2.2	*5.1*	*6.4*	*6.7*
BILLINGS SMSA	54.0	54.5	54.2	52.5	52.4	51.8	1.5	2.1	2.4	*2.8*	*3.9*	*4.4*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	281.0	274.3	274.2	269.2	260.1	256.6	11.8	14.2	17.6	*4.2*	*5.2*	*6.4*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.3	34.6	34.7	33.7	32.9	32.6	1.6	1.7	2.1	*4.5*	*4.9*	*6.1*
BOZEMAN	26.5	25.9	26.7	25.7	24.7	25.1	.8	1.2	1.6	*3.2*	*4.5*	*5.9*
GLASGOW	16.5	16.0	15.7	16.0	15.4	15.1	.5	.6	.6	*2.9*	*4.0*	*4.1*
GLENDIVE	14.8	14.3	14.1	14.4	13.9	13.5	.4	.4	.6	*2.4*	*2.5*	*3.9*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.8	12.3	12.2	12.3	11.7	11.5	.5	.6	.7	*4.1*	*4.7*	*5.4*
HAVRE	12.4	12.2	12.3	11.9	11.6	11.5	.5	.6	.8	*4.0*	*5.3*	*6.7*
HELENA	27.3	27.2	27.2	25.7	25.9	25.6	1.6	1.3	1.6	*5.9*	*4.8*	*5.9*
KALISPELL	37.7	38.7	38.8	34.5	36.1	35.3	3.2	2.6	3.5	*8.4*	*6.8*	*9.1*
LEWISTOWN	10.1	10.5	10.0	9.5	10.0	9.6	.6	.5	.4	*5.7*	*4.4*	*4.0*
MILES CITY	14.4	14.6	14.3	13.6	14.1	13.6	.8	.5	.7	*5.6*	*3.6*	*4.7*
MISSOULA	50.2	51.8	51.8	46.4	48.4	47.7	3.8	3.4	4.1	*7.5*	*6.5*	*7.9*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.4	16.2	16.2	15.3	15.4	15.2	1.1	.8	1.0	*7.0*	*5.1*	*6.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979
STATEWIDE	360.8	361.2	-.1	338.6	338.1	.1	22.2	23.1	-.9	6.2	6.4	-.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32.4	35.6	-9.0	30.2	32.8	-7.9	2.2	2.8	-.6	6.7	7.9	-1.2
BILLINGS SMSA	54.2	54.4	-.4	51.8	51.7	.2	2.4	2.7	-.3	4.4	4.9	-.5
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	274.2	271.2	1.1	256.6	253.6	1.2	17.6	17.6	0	6.4	6.5	-.1
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.7	36.0	-3.6	32.6	33.5	-2.7	2.1	2.5	-.4	6.1	6.9	-.8
BOZEMAN	26.7	26.4	1.1	25.1	24.9	.8	1.6	1.5	.1	5.9	5.6	.3
GLASGOW	15.7	15.4	1.9	15.1	14.7	2.7	.6	.7	-.1	4.1	4.3	-.2
GLENDIVE	14.1	13.4	5.2	13.5	12.9	4.7	.6	.5	.1	3.9	3.6	.3
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.2	12.2	0	11.5	11.4	.9	.7	.8	-.1	5.4	6.2	-.8
HAVRE	12.3	11.9	3.4	11.5	11.2	2.7	.8	.7	.1	6.7	6.0	.7
HELENA	27.2	27.3	-.4	25.6	25.7	-.4	1.6	1.6	0	5.9	5.9	0
KALISPELL	38.8	37.7	2.9	35.3	34.5	2.3	3.5	3.2	.3	9.1	8.4	.7
LEWISTOWN	10.0	10.1	-1.0	9.6	9.5	1.1	.4	.6	-.2	4.0	5.7	-1.7
MILES CITY	14.3	14.4	-.7	13.6	13.6	0	.7	.8	-.1	4.7	5.6	-.9
MISSOULA	51.8	50.2	3.2	47.7	46.4	2.8	4.1	3.8	.3	7.9	7.5	.4
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.2	16.4	-1.2	15.2	15.3	-.7	1.0	1.1	-.1	6.3	7.0	-.7

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA — DECEMBER 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	360799	338589	22210	6.2
CASCADE	32414	30254	2160	6.7
YELLOWSTONE	54238	51842	2396	4.4
BEAVERHEAD	4102	3887	215	5.2
BIG HORN	5944	5535	409	6.9
BLAINE	2906	2617	289	9.9
BROADWATER	1631	1560	71	4.4
CARBON	2814	2654	160	5.7
CARTER	761	654	107	14.1
CHOUTEAU	2478	2420	58	2.3
CUSTER	5531	5376	155	2.8
DANIELS	1311	1285	26	2.0
DAWSON	5706	5342	364	6.4
DEER LODGE	6079	5618	461	7.6
FALLON	2017	1974	43	2.1
FERGUS	5665	5424	241	4.3
FLATHEAD	23214	21156	2058	8.9
GALLATIN	20050	19039	1011	5.0
GARFIELD	701	667	34	4.9
GLACIER	5170	4658	512	9.9
GOLDEN VALLEY	321	304	17	5.3
GRANITE	1268	1199	69	5.4
HILL	8418	7924	494	5.9
JEFFERSON	2037	1889	148	7.3
JUDITH BASIN	1005	922	83	8.3
LAKE	8299	7763	536	6.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	23573	22194	1379	5.8
LIBERTY	943	905	38	4.0
LINCOLN	7322	6394	928	12.7
MC CONE	1074	1047	27	2.5
MADISON	2019	1947	72	3.6
MEAGHER	920	843	77	8.4
MINERAL	1495	1334	161	10.8
MISSOULA	38140	35561	2579	6.8
MUSSELSHELL	1681	1645	36	2.1
PARK	5709	5216	493	8.6
PETROLEUM	276	265	11	4.0
PHILLIPS	2570	2449	121	4.7
PONDERA	3285	3132	153	4.7
POWDER RIVER	998	967	31	3.1
POWELL	3323	3145	178	5.4
PRAIRIE	670	656	14	2.1
RAVALLI	8216	7369	847	10.3
RICHLAND	5259	5172	87	1.7
ROOSEVELT	4978	4734	244	4.9
ROSEBUD	4614	4283	331	7.2
SANDERS	3974	3473	501	12.6
SHERIDAN	2447	2409	38	1.6
SILVER BOW	17861	16759	1102	6.2
STILLWATER	1981	1908	73	3.7
SWEET GRASS	1476	1456	20	1.4
TETON	2733	2591	142	5.2
TOOLE	2574	2423	151	5.9
TREASURE	414	401	13	3.1
VALLEY	4443	4228	215	4.8
WHEATLAND	1093	1082	11	1.0
WIBAUX	658	638	20	3.0

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
NOVEMBER 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	361851	343415	18436	5.1
CASCADE	33037	30925	2112	6.4
YELLOWSTONE	54460	52361	2099	3.9
BEAVERHEAD	4108	3963	145	3.5
BIG HORN	5813	5479	334	5.7
BLAINE	2812	2618	194	6.9
BROADWATER	1737	1684	53	3.1
CARBON	2831	2710	121	4.3
CARTER	787	708	79	10.0
CHOUTEAU	2592	2512	80	3.1
CUSTER	5690	5545	145	2.5
DANIELS	1331	1301	30	2.3
DAWSON	5640	5478	162	2.9
DEER LODGE	5970	5677	293	4.9
FALLON	2039	2001	38	1.9
FERGUS	5909	5641	268	4.5
FLATHEAD	22957	21357	1600	7.0
GALLATIN	19475	18638	837	4.3
GARFIELD	740	702	38	5.1
GLACIER	4985	4575	410	8.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	338	324	14	4.1
GRANITE	1291	1228	63	4.9
HILL	8407	7989	418	5.0
JEFFERSON	2094	1936	158	7.5
JUDITH BASIN	1067	972	95	8.9
LAKE	8552	8041	511	6.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	23412	22306	1106	4.7
LIBERTY	1010	971	39	3.9
LINCOLN	7180	6663	517	7.2
MC CONE	1111	1098	13	1.2
MADISON	2120	2050	70	3.3
MEAGHER	933	898	35	3.8
MINERAL	1537	1387	150	9.8
MISSOULA	38123	35830	2293	6.0
MUSSELSHELL	1760	1714	46	2.6
PARK	5487	5194	293	5.3
PETROLEUM	282	280	2	.7
PHILLIPS	2619	2527	92	3.5
PONDERA	3355	3218	137	4.1
POWDER RIVER	1056	1029	27	2.6
POWELL	3406	3228	178	5.2
PRAIRIE	716	687	29	4.1
RAVALLI	8238	7570	668	8.1
RICHLAND	5341	5244	97	1.8
ROOSEVELT	5039	4802	237	4.7
ROSEBUD	4584	4363	221	4.8
SANDERS	3838	3573	265	6.9
SHERIDAN	2511	2478	33	1.3
SILVER BOW	17734	16773	961	5.4
STILLWATER	2036	1952	84	4.1
SWEET GRASS	1564	1527	37	2.4
TETON	2747	2650	97	3.5
TOOLE	2577	2478	99	3.8
TREASURE	417	408	9	2.2
VALLEY	4566	4316	250	5.5
WHEATLAND	1163	1122	41	3.5
WIBAUX	727	714	13	1.8

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

December 1979

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:		Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
	Dec. 1979 1/	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1978	Dec. 1979		Nov. 1979	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	132.7	132.6	127.7	.1	5.0	289.5	*45.8*	290.1	*45.7*
Manufacturing	3.2	3.3	3.1	-.1	.1	26.6	*12.0*	27.1	*12.2*
Mining	.4	.4	.4	0	0	8.0	*5.0*	8.0	*5.0*
Contract Construction	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	.1	14.7	*9.5*	15.9	*8.8*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.4	4.4	4.2	0	.2	23.7	*18.6*	23.6	*18.6*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	37.2	36.8	38.5	.4	-1.3	76.6	*48.6*	76.1	*48.4*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.4	8.5	7.8	-.1	.6	12.9	*65.1*	12.9	*65.9*
Services	35.2	35.3	35.2	-.1	0	55.0	*64.0*	54.5	*64.8*
Government 2/	42.5	42.5	37.2	0	5.3	72.1	*59.0*	72.1	*59.0*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.8	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.4	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.8	35.6	34.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

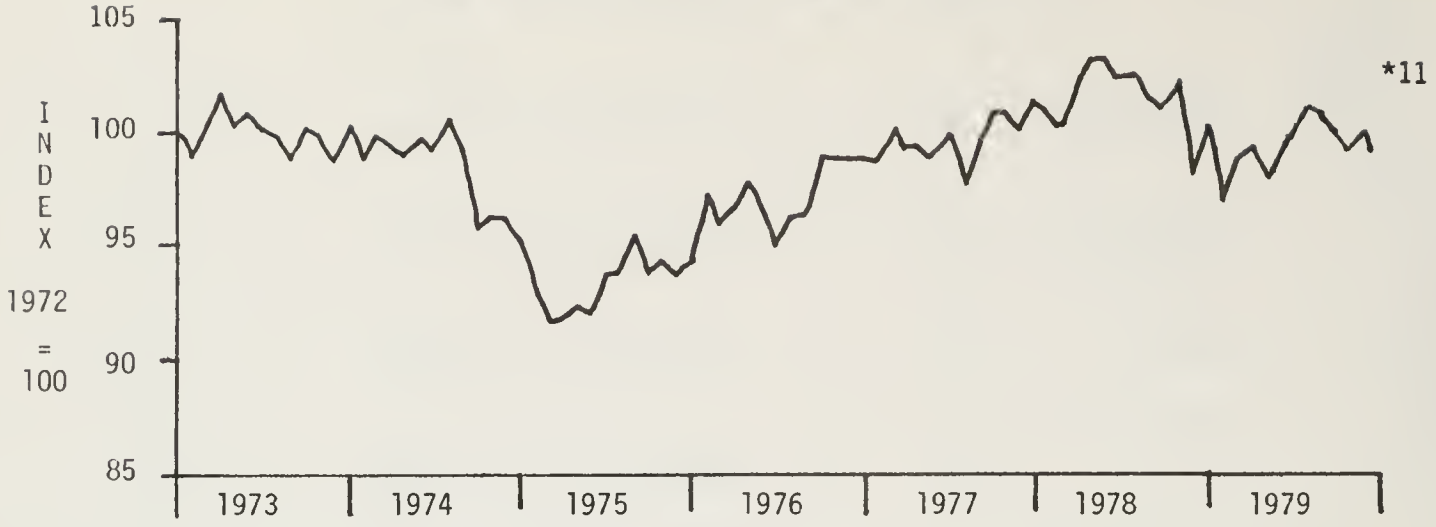
1979

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7	122.4	124.2	126.5	128.1	129.1	127.7	128.5	130.4	130.3	132.6	132.7	
Manufacturing.....	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.2	
Mining	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.4	.4	
Contract Construction.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	35.6	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.8	36.3	36.9	37.0	36.9	36.8	37.2	
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	
Services.....	35.0	34.8	35.0	34.7	35.0	34.9	34.1	34.3	34.7	35.1	35.3	35.2	
Government.....	35.7	34.8	36.2	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.7	38.8	40.3	39.9	42.5	42.5	

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1978 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS

1978	
January	100.6
February	*100.2*
March	102.2
April	103.1
May	103.1
June	*102.4*
July	102.5
August	*102.5*
September	*101.8*
October	102.2
November	*98.0*
December	100.4
1979	
January	*96.7*
February	98.8
March	99.2
April	*97.8*
May	99.9
June	101.3
July	*100.9*
August	*99.4*
September	*98.8*
October	99.6
November	*98.5*
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

November was a month of contraction in economic activity, as revealed in the latest Composite Index of Six Economic Indicators. The Composite Index moved downward from the September figure of 99.6% to 98.5% for November.

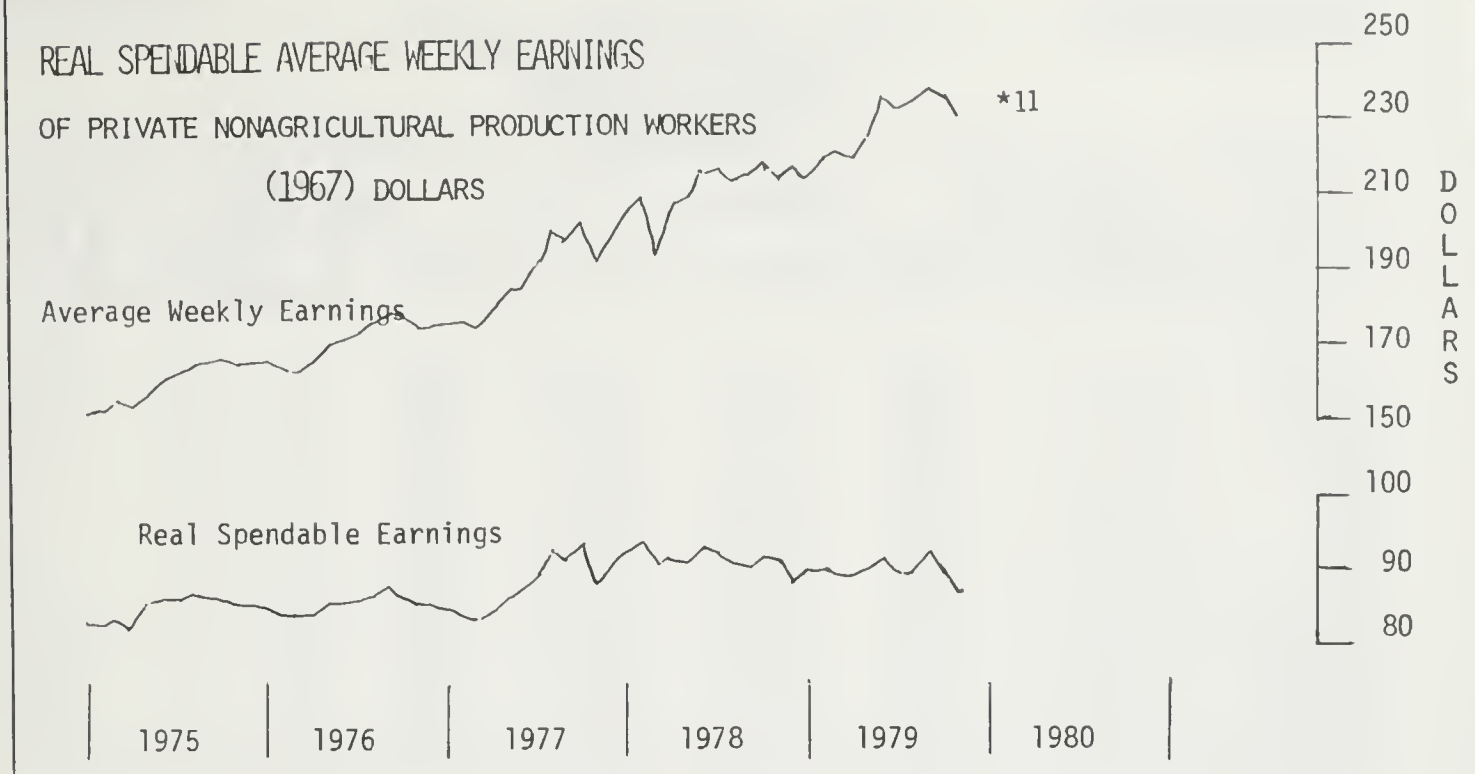
Those indicators stagnating in November were Manufacturing Layoff Rate, Manufacturing Employment, and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The most significant slowing pace of activity was in the Manufacturing Layoff Rate that changed from October's 0.8 to November's 2.2 per hundred employees. November had the highest layoff rate since 1975, and the lumber industry was the most affected among the manufacturers.

The average workweek for manufacturing business and Building Permits remained unchanged. However, the high interest rates are expected to create a slowing pace in building permits. The only positive movement in the Composite Index was from the Manufacturing Accession Rate.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*

*** *Figures in italics indicate declines from previous month.*



	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	230.62	236.90	213.49
Taxes Withheld	33.15	35.06	34.13
Spendable Earnings	197.46	201.83	179.35
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	110.71	112.37	90.48
Real Spendable Earnings	86.75	89.46	88.87

	1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
1978		
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	213.49	88.87
Dec.	217.56	89.87
1979		
Jan.	215.42	89.79
Feb.	219.57	90.19
Mar.	221.43	89.85
Apr.	220.68	88.70
May	225.42	89.08
June	236.99	91.75
July	233.87	89.83
Aug.	234.99	89.13
Sep.	238.74	92.42
Oct.	236.90	89.46
Nov.	230.62	86.75
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

November's gross average weekly earnings declined by $6.28 from the previous month's gross earnings. This is the largest reduction between two consecutive months and was caused mainly by a decline in the average number of weekly hours maintained by production workers, especially in the wholesale and retail trade industries.

Real Spendable Earnings in November dropped to the lowest level of the year. Again, the inflation rate, 12.8% annual basis, is the the big factor for the reduction of real spendable earnings.

On a national level, consumers are reluctant to permit inflation to reduce living standards. A reduction in savings has been the most noticed method to keep the real income from declining. In the fourth quarter of 1979, consumers saved only 3.3% of the disposable income, which is the lowest rate in 29 years.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.*

1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

3/ Taxes computed on family with four exemptions.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1977								
January	336.8	315.4	281.4	34.0	21.4	6.3	7.4	*
February	338.6	316.6	281.8	34.8	22.0	6.5	7.6	*
March	339.1	316.8	281.9	34.9	22.3	6.6	7.4	.1
April	339.8	317.5	282.0	35.5	22.3	6.6	7.1	*
May	342.4	319.3	284.4	34.9	23.1	6.7	7.1	*
June	339.5	319.8	284.8	35.0	19.7	5.8	7.1	.1
July	343.7	321.8	286.6	35.2	21.9	6.4	6.9	3.4
August	352.0	329.5	294.7	34.8	22.5	6.4	7.0	.2
September	353.1	330.4	296.3	34.1	22.7	6.4	6.8	.1
October	349.4	327.0	293.3	33.7	22.4	6.4	6.8	.4
November	350.3	328.2	294.6	33.6	22.1	6.3	6.7	.3
December	355.1	333.5	299.9	33.6	21.6	6.1	6.3	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	359.8	337.4	304.0	33.4	22.4	6.2	6.3	*
February	362.6	340.4	306.7	33.7	22.2	6.1	6.1	*
March	367.3	343.8	310.2	33.6	23.5	6.4	6.2	*
April	369.6	348.0	314.7	33.3	21.6	5.8	6.1	*
May	372.7	351.2	318.1	33.1	21.5	5.8	6.1	.1
June	374.8	352.8	319.8	33.0	22.0	5.9	5.8	.4
July	375.8	353.6	320.7	32.9	22.2	5.9	6.1	.2
August	371.1	349.3	316.6	32.7	21.8	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.4	350.8	318.2	32.6	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.6	350.0	317.4	32.6	20.6	5.6	5.8	.1
November	372.8	350.7	318.0	32.7	22.1	5.9	5.8	.1
December	370.5	347.9	315.1	32.8	22.6	6.1	5.9	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
1979								
January	377.4	354.9	322.2	32.7	22.5	6.0	5.8	*
February	378.7	360.1	327.1	33.0	18.6	4.9	5.7	1.0
March	378.2	361.4	328.7	32.7	16.8	4.4	5.7	*
April	380.8	361.7	329.3	32.4	19.1	5.0	5.8	*
May	385.2	366.2	333.9	32.3	19.0	4.9	5.8	*
June	380.0	363.7	331.7	32.0	16.3	4.3	5.6	*
July	378.1	360.3	328.5	31.8	17.8	4.7	5.7	*
August	373.0	354.7	323.1	31.6	18.3	4.9	6.0	.1
September	371.5	353.3	321.5	31.8	18.2	4.9	5.8	.1
October	371.2	352.9	321.0	31.9	18.3	4.9	6.0	.1
November	367.1	347.7	315.6	32.1	19.4	5.3	5.8	*
December	370.1	348.4	316.2	32.2	21.7	5.9	5.9	*
Avg.	375.9	357.1	324.9	32.2	18.8	5.0		.2

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks. Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.3	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.5	*
March	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.6	*
April	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
June	32.8	31.0	29.6	1.4	1.8	5.4	5.8	*
July	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.3	6.4	.8
August	33.5	31.3	29.9	1.4	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
September	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.4	*
October	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	.3
November	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.3	.3
December	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.1	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
1978								
January	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
February	35.1	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.6	7.3	6.1	*
March	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.4	*
April	35.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	3.1	8.5	5.8	*
May	36.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	3.1	8.6	5.8	*
June	35.9	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	*
July	36.0	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.9	*
August	36.0	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.9	*
September	36.2	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.5	7.0	5.8	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.6	*
November	36.2	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.8	7.7	5.9	*
December	36.1	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.9	8.0	6.1	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
1979								
January	36.2	33.5	32.2	1.3	2.7	7.4	6.0	*
February	36.1	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.3	6.3	4.9	*
March	35.3	33.4	32.3	1.3	1.9	5.4	4.4	*
April	35.8	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.1	5.8	5.0	*
May	36.2	34.2	32.9	1.3	2.0	5.6	4.9	*
June	35.5	33.7	32.4	1.3	1.8	5.1	4.3	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.6	1.3	2.0	5.9	4.7	*
August	34.8	32.7	31.5	1.2	2.1	6.1	4.9	*
September	34.4	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.0	5.8	4.9	*
October	33.6	31.7	30.5	1.2	1.9	5.7	4.9	*
November	32.9	30.7	29.5	1.2	2.2	6.7	5.3	*
December	32.9	30.7	29.4	1.3	2.2	6.8	5.9	*
Avg.	34.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	2.1		5.0	*

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1977								
January	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
February	50.0	47.5	45.9	1.6	2.5	5.1	6.5	*
March	50.2	47.8	46.2	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
April	49.9	47.4	45.7	1.7	2.5	5.0	6.6	*
May	50.5	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.8	5.5	6.7	*
June	50.0	48.1	46.5	1.6	1.9	3.9	5.8	*
July	50.5	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.3	4.6	6.4	*
August	51.6	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
September	52.1	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.5	4.9	6.4	*
October	51.2	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
November	51.9	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.3	*
December	52.4	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	6.1	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	52.7	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.6	5.0	6.2	*
February	53.2	50.7	49.1	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.1	*
March	54.1	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.9	5.4	6.4	*
April	54.2	51.8	50.2	1.6	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
May	54.2	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.8	*
June	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
July	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
August	54.0	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
September	54.7	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
October	54.2	52.1	50.6	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.6	*
November	55.1	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.8	5.2	5.9	*
December	54.1	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.6	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.6	4.7	6.0	*
February	54.7	52.7	51.2	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
March	54.6	52.8	51.3	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.4	*
April	54.3	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.0	*
May	55.6	53.6	52.1	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
June	53.6	52.2	50.7	1.5	1.4	2.7	4.3	*
July	53.5	51.8	50.3	1.5	1.7	3.3	4.7	*
August	54.2	52.4	51.0	1.4	1.9	3.5	4.9	*
September	54.5	52.6	50.7	1.5	1.9	3.4	4.9	*
October	53.6	51.7	50.2	1.5	1.9	3.5	4.9	*
November	54.3	52.0	50.6	1.4	2.3	4.3	5.3	*
December	54.0	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	*
Avg.	54.3	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.0	*

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
TOTAL PRIVATE	232.10	230.62	217.56	36.9	35.7	36.2	6.29	6.46	6.01
MANUFACTURING	390.28	378.88	341.01	44.3	43.4	42.1	8.81	8.73	8.10
Durable Goods	414.96	396.92	340.69	45.6	44.2	41.7	9.10	8.98	8.17
Primary Metal Industries	433.56	454.12	336.38	42.8	42.6	37.5	10.13	10.66	8.97
Nondurable Goods	341.92	341.12	341.48	41.8	41.6	42.9	8.18	8.20	7.96
Food and Kindred Products	276.92	284.46	280.45	42.8	43.1	44.8	6.47	6.60	6.26
MINING	438.51	438.97	434.73	46.6	46.6	47.1	9.41	9.42	9.23
Metal Mining	421.01	421.01	477.17	35.8	35.8	43.3	11.76	11.76	11.02
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	351.45	357.00	339.35	35.5	35.7	33.8	9.90	10.00	10.04
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	322.22	324.77	321.62	41.1	40.8	41.5	7.84	7.96	7.75
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	339.72	345.43	312.18	45.6	44.4	43.0	7.45	7.78	7.26
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	184.10	181.69	170.84	35.0	32.1	34.1	5.26	5.66	5.01
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	155.02	146.52	144.90	33.7	33.0	35.0	4.60	4.44	4.14
SERVICES	146.54	146.20	137.76	34.0	34.0	33.6	4.31	4.30	4.10

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

November 1979

	ACCESSION RATES									SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1979	Nov. 1978
MANUFACTURING	2.0	4.4	0.2	1.6	4.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	5.8	2.8	0.3	1.6	1.7	0.1	3.1	0.7	0.2
Durable Goods	1.0	2.4	1.0	0.5	1.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	6.0	1.9	1.7	0.4	1.1	0.5	4.1	0.6	0.7
Primary Metal Industries	1.1	3.3	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.0	3.9	1.1	2.6	0.5	0.7	0.4	2.1	0.0	1.4
Nondurable Goods	4.0	8.3	5.3	3.7	8.2	5.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	5.5	4.5	7.2	3.6	2.8	3.1	1.4	1.1	3.4
MINING	12.9	11.6	3.4	11.8	4.6	2.5	1.1	0.4	0.6	8.2	8.6	3.8	7.4	6.9	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.1
Metal Mining	0.0	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	4.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Year to Date 1979	Year to Date 1978
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	32	44	391	354
MINING	36	4	313	118
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	39	49	760	937
MANUFACTURING	15	10	266	254
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	27	12	256	180
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	105	79	1269	1281
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	30	27	452	458
SERVICES	90	108	1481	1511
NON-PROFIT SERVICES	(10)	(22)	(260)	(228)
GOVERNMENT	0	6	0	6
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	19	0	171	103
STATE TOTAL	393	339	5369	5202

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
STATE OF MONTANA	393	339	5369	5202
GREAT FALLS SMSA	25	32	352	441
BILLINGS SMSA	65	67	821	877
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	40	INA	(320) (May-Dec.)	INA
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	28	17	331	345
Beaverhead	5	4	54	59
Deer Lodge	0	1	29	23
Granite	0	0	17	12
Madison	3	1	42	39
Powell	1	2	18	34
Silver Bow	19	9	171	178
BOZEMAN LMA	33	30	421	534
Gallatin	26	25	329	433
Meagher	2	0	9	17
Park	5	5	83	84
GLASGOW LMA	14	14	194	140
Daniels	1	1	12	5
Phillips	1	4	37	20
Roosevelt	5	3	48	46
Sheridan	4	3	44	27
Valley	3	3	53	42
GLENDIVE LMA	18	16	338	214
Dawson	4	3	92	62
Garfield	2	3	12	12
McCone	2	1	24	10
Prairie	0	3	7	12
Richland	9	5	195	111
Wibaux	1	1	8	7
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	4	9	153	140
Big Horn	1	4	57	44
Carbon	2	1	52	46
Stillwater	1	3	30	27
Sweet Grass	0	1	14	23

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
HAVRE LMA	8	11	152	155
Blaine	2	2	23	27
Hill	5	6	112	106
Liberty	1	3	17	22
HELENA LMA	21	19	283	388
Broadwater	3	1	29	17
Jefferson	4	2	33	45
Lewis and Clark	14	16	321	326
KALISPELL LMA	41	38	648	657
Flathead	25	24	423	449
Lake	12	8	113	115
Lincoln	4	6	112	93
LEWISTOWN LMA	7	6	113	112
Fergus	4	5	66	72
Golden Valley	0	0	5	3
Judith Basin	0	0	13	7
Musselshell	1	0	16	19
Petroleum	1	1	4	3
Wheatland	1	0	9	8
MILES CITY LMA	17	7	148	140
Carter	0	0	9	9
Custer	6	5	56	65
Fallon	1	0	30	17
Powder River	4	1	18	17
Rosebud	5	1	30	30
Treasure	1	0	5	2
MISSOULA LMA	44	55	752	825
Mineral	1	2	19	21
Missoula	28	43	538	601
Ravalli	9	9	140	150
Sanders	6	1	55	53
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	28	18	243	234
Choteau	5	0	37	24
Glacier	6	6	72	71
Pondera	3	4	47	52
Teton	2	1	21	28
Toole	12	7	66	59

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

EA5-1501 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
DECEMBER 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
FLATHEAD	199	18,299.55
GALLATIN	491	33,503.09
GLACIER	155	13,191.38
GOLDEN VALLEY	73	6,203.33
GRANITE	232	20,784.87
HILL	6	262.17
JEFFERSON	2,272	295,251.89
JUDITH BASIN	51	3,270.20
LAKE	171	14,684.76
LEWIS AND CLARK	5	376.00
LIBERTY	137	11,411.61
LINCOLN	515	44,864.72
MCCONE	26	1,987.00
MADISON	271	23,905.26
MEAGHER	2,642	225,544.13
MINERAL	1,504	119,214.81
MISSOULA	20	1,278.00
MUSSELSHELL	555	42,442.13
PARK	0	0.00
PETROLEUM	82	7,003.93
PHILLIPS	579	47,506.87
PONDERA	175	16,555.95
POWDER RIVER	15	1,532.00
POWELL	601	50,371.24
PRAIRIE	1,425	124,133.93
RAVALLI	32	3,062.95
RICHLAND	869	72,880.63
ROOSEVELT	13	1,022.00
ROSEBUD	89	6,783.43
SANDERS	47	3,463.52
SHERIDAN	178	14,874.49
SILVER BOW	3,801	334,157.92
STILLWATER	56	4,985.00
SWEET GRASS	550	45,290.09
TETON	10	721.00
TOOLE	141	11,090.75
TREASURE	138	18,021.52
VALLEY	22	1,903.00
WHEATLAND	239	19,115.63
WIBAUX	29	2,758.52
YELLOWSTONE	1,147	94,236.95
INTRASTATE	64	4,954.96
INTERSTATE	223	17,470.43
TOTAL	297	25,591.62
	511	57,410.23
	32	2,584.00
	1,388	117,104.91
	86	7,445.09
	26	2,143.04
	153	15,689.43
	143	13,082.85
	16	1,518.00
	267	24,005.09
	4	268.00
	8	845.00
	2,543	226,325.57
	26,425	2,273,623.83
	1,029	100,583.65
	27,454	2,373,607.49

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1979 THRU DECEMBER 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	2,116	173,117.50
BIGHORN	3,477	275,817.98
BLAINE	2,144	163,790.49
BROADWATER	1,049	86,397.50
CARBON	2,713	241,914.50
CARTER	129	8,414.49
CASCADE	45,203	3,774,790.44
CHOUTEAU	795	59,618.04
CUSTER	3,080	259,257.88
DANIELS	251	16,222.00
DAWSON	1,996	175,943.02
DEER LODGE	8,911	733,505.37
FALLON	413	32,569.52
FERGUS	3,603	304,167.37
FLATHEAD	30,801	2,534,059.09
GALLATIN	15,830	1,285,960.49
GARFIELD	262	19,926.00
GLACIER	7,529	587,640.41
GOLDEN VALLEY	163	13,512.00
GRANITE	1,544	119,935.23
HILL	6,110	488,484.13
JEFFERSON	2,966	261,286.59
JUDITH BASIN	240	21,966.00
LAKE	8,943	721,701.31
LEWIS AND CLARK	23,008	1,967,712.77
LIBERTY	339	30,303.31
LINCOLN	15,321	1,289,678.22
MCCONE	161	15,063.00
MADISON	924	70,512.22
MEAGHER	722	54,888.84
MINERAL	2,247	188,127.27
MISSOULA	46,671	3,841,262.76
MUSSELSHELL	1,010	88,183.41
PARK	5,581	420,102.08
PETROLEUM	15	942.00
PHILLIPS	1,445	121,141.11
PONDERA	2,031	172,717.88
POWDER RIVER	244	22,394.00
POWELL	3,663	299,461.34
PRAIRIE	446	40,664.52
RAVALLI	12,258	946,934.74
RICHLAND	1,151	87,505.00
ROOSEVELT	3,267	240,389.84
ROSEBUD	3,422	287,432.85
SANDERS	5,847	482,741.23
SHERIDAN	336	26,628.00
SILVER BOW	27,648	2,194,044.25
STILLWATER	1,412	134,890.50
SWEET GRASS	174	13,371.36
TETON	1,599	131,827.56
TOOLE	2,054	168,077.09
TREASURE	216	17,383.96
VALLEY	3,990	317,889.06
WHEATLAND	206	14,314.42
WIBAUX	229	17,001.00
YELLOWSTONE	38,121	3,290,611.79
INTRASTATE	356,051	29,369,321.45
INTERSTATE	15,624	2,014,858.60
TOTAL	371,675	31,384,180.05

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	45,720	45,747	-27	*-.1*
Continued Claims[1/]	444,982	453,449	-8,467	*-1.9*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	371,675	360,616	11,059	*3.1*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$31,384,180	$28,652,423	$2,731,757	*9.5*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$88.29	$84.24	$4.05	*4.8*

MONTHLY

	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1979	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	5,332	4,267	4,590	742	*16.2*
Continued Claims[1/]	34,656	24,084	40,398	-5,742	*-14.2*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	27,454	19,812	32,959	-5,505	*-16.7*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$2,373,607	$1,720,190	$2,731,478	-$357,871	*-13.1*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$90.52	$91.32	$86.67	$3.85	*4.4*
Trust Fund Balance	$15,905,477	$17,968,752*	$4,173,854**	$11,731,623	*281.1*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $ 7,084,089.
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $10,484,089.

This winter, initial claims recorded in December exceeded those of both last month and last year. In 1978, November was the beginning of the rising claims count. Continued claims increased over November's total, but were fewer than a year ago. Again this month, initial and continued claims both were down from the numbers filed for the year-to-date period in 1978. Until November, there had been more claims filed in most months of 1979 than in 1978.

The number and amount of benefits paid this month rose from last month, but with not as large a gain as from November to December in 1978. Comparing this month with a year ago, there were fewer payments and less money paid this year than last. The last month of the cumulative total for 1979 followed the almost year-long trend by continuing to show a growth in benefits over the corresponding period in 1978.

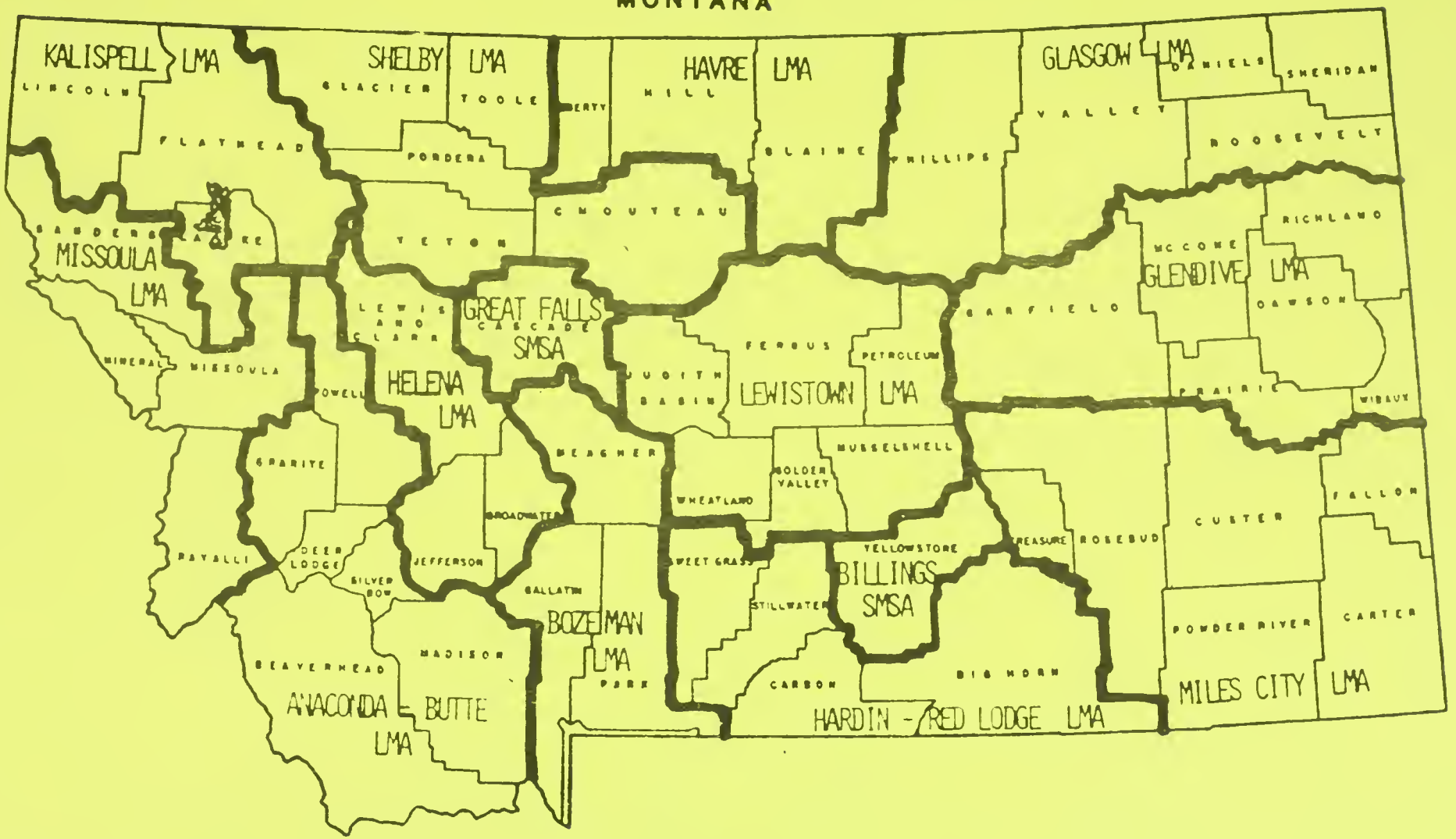
A slight decline was noted in the Average Weekly Benefit Amount this month from November, but there was a 4.4% increase from last December. For January through December 1979 the percent change from last year was 4.8% which is close to the changes calculated for the last several months.

The Trust Fund Balance decreased in December from November, as usual for the last month of a quarter. It is still a much better balance to last through the winter than the amount on hand at this time last year.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



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The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

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